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Detective in Spying Case Linked to Birch Leader

Suspect in Police Probe Ran Private Computer Operation That Keeps Records on Leftists in U.S.

By JOEL SAPPELL, *Times Staff Writer*

A Los Angeles police detective under investigation for stashing intelligence files in his home and garage was deeply involved in a privately funded operation headed by the chairman of the John Birch Society to computerize information about Americans on the political left, *The Times* has learned.

Los Angeles police officials are investigating whether Detective Jay Paul illegally channeled material from confidential police intelligence files to the data bank run by Western Goals, a tax-exempt foundation based in Alexandria, Va.

The foundation was created in late 1979 by Rep. Larry P. McDonald (D-Ga.), who this year became the Birch Society's chairman. McDonald, noted for his anti-communist attacks in the Congressional Record, has praised the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy as "a real hero" and denounced Martin Luther King Jr. as a man "wedded to violence."

Paul ran the computer system from his wife's law office in Long Beach, using about \$100,000 worth of equipment provided by the foundation. He was the data bank's chief programmer and for two years computerized vast amounts of information sent to him by Western Goals from numerous sources.

Paul has told LAPD internal affairs investigators that he tapped into the computer system to compile intelligence reports for Los Angeles police officials. According to an official of Western Goals, Paul was not paid by the foundation, although his wife, Ann Love, had an undisclosed financial arrangement with the foundation. She could not be reached for comment.

An East Coast police intelligence source, who asked not to be identified, said that Western Goals has a reputation of serving as a "clearing-house" for certain police depart-

ments that have been barred from keeping political information on citizens not engaged in criminal activity. By funneling such information to Western Goals—which operates free of government control—the police can retain access to a broad spectrum of "laundered" intelligence materials, said the source, who has been involved in police intelligence work for a decade.

Paul's attorney, Robert Loew, said police higher-ups in the LAPD's soon-to-be-disbanded Public Disorder Intelligence Division not only knew of Paul's Western Goals affiliation but considered the computer a good intelligence resource and "advocated" its use and continued development.

He insisted, however, that the detective passed no information from undercover police investigations to the foundation.

Work evaluations written by Paul's superiors hint at the foundation connection. One, from May, 1982, states that as "a trained computer technician," Paul has provided "valuable information for the department." Another, written in late 1981, praises Paul for develop-

ing "valuable contacts for intelligence information" during two trips to the East Coast at his own expense. Attorney Loew confirmed that those trips were to Western Goals.

Paul reportedly told investigators that he showed his bosses in the Public Disorder Intelligence Division how a video display terminal located in the division's seventh-floor office in Parker Center could be used to retrieve data from Western Goals' system. The *Times* was unable to determine whether intelligence officers in the division actually took advantage of the set up.

In fund-raising literature, Western Goals has cited the existence of its "sophisticated" data bank, but said it was keeping its location under wraps for "security reasons."

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\$55,000 said that Western Goals' computer capabilities made it "the first and only public foundation to enter this area and fill the critical gap caused by the crippling of the FBI, the disabling of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the destruction of crucial government files."

The foundation's literature boasts that "thousands of documents relating to the internal security of our country and the protection of government and institutions from Communist-controlled penetration and subversion" have been computerized and are "just a push of a button away from our veteran analysts, who will continue to work closely with the official agencies in charge of our protection."

As for the future, the foundation promised daily "updates"—via computer—about the activities "of those who would seek to bring revolutionary change to America." But the operation never got that far.

In January, Western Goals' ambitious plans were derailed when Paul became the target of investigations by the Los Angeles Police Department's Internal Affairs Division and the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. In the course of those investigations, Paul surrendered more than 100 cartons of intelligence materials that he had stored in his home and garage. The materials included folders on police commissioners, judges, politicians and Police Department critics.